

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A system and method that displays a semi-transparent user input interface relative to an application's currently focused input field at times when handwritten input is appropriate.

- 5 The semi-transparent user interface starts when a program's text input field receives focus, can grow as needed to receive input, or will disappear when not used for a time.

Handwritten data is recognized and passed to the application as if it was typed in the focused field, and the application

- 10 need not be aware of handwriting, as the system and method are external to the application. Pen events that are not handwriting, but comprise gestures directed to the program through the semi-transparent input user interface, are detected by a gesture detection engine and sent to the
- 15 application. A user is thus guided to enter handwriting, while handwriting recognition appears to be built into applications, whether or not those applications are aware of handwriting.